



Drinkable, Swimmable, Fishable: Clearwater Celebrates 50+ Years of the Clean Water Act
Friday, April 14, 2023 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Kaplan Hall, SUNY Orange, Newburgh, NY

Program Agenda

8:30 am - 9 am Check-In and Networking

9:00 am - 9:15 am Welcome Remarks - Manna Jo Greene, River Sloop Clearwater

9:15am - 9:35 am A 21st Century Clean Water Act - John Cronin, Blue CoLab at Pace University

9:35 am - 10:30 am Swimmable Panel

Moderator: Fran Dunwell, Retired Founder & Former Coordinator of the Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Speakers:

- Hudson River Access - Jeffrey Anzevino, AICP, Scenic Hudson
- Water Quality Monitoring & A Swimmable Hudson River - Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper
- Harmful Algae Blooms (HABS) - Emily Vail, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

10:30 am - 11:25 am Fishable Panel

Moderator: David Toman, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Speakers:

- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) Remediation & 5-Year Review Update - Althea Mullarkey, Scenic Hudson
- PCB Fish Consumption Health Advisory - Gena Gallinger, New York State Department of Health
- Fish Populations - Steve Stanne, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board of Directors and Retired NYSDEC

11:25 am - 11:35 am 10 Minute Break

11:35 am - 12:30 pm Drinkable Panel

Moderator: Aaron Mair, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board of Directors

Speakers:

- Emerging Contaminants - Rob Hayes, Environmental Advocates of New York
- Hudson 7: Protecting the Hudson River as a Drinking Water Source - Gary Bassett, Mayor of Rhinebeck
- City of Newburgh Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) Drinking Water Contamination Case Study - Jennifer Rawlison, Newburgh Clean Water Project

12:30 pm - 12:45 pm Resilience Speaker - Libby Zematis, Hudson River Estuary Program

12:45 pm - 1 pm Closing Remarks - Manna Jo Greene, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Speaker and Moderator Biographies



Jeff Anzevino, AICP, Director of Land Use Advocacy, Scenic Hudson

Swimmable Panelist - Hudson River Access

Jeffrey Anzevino, AICP, works with communities to ensure that riverfront development is resilient, stimulates the economy, connects people with the river, and conserves views and natural resources. He is also an adjunct instructor at Marist College's Department of Environmental Science and Policy where he has taught a senior-level course in Environmental Planning since 2011. He graduated *cum laude* from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a B.A. in Geography (1985).



Gary Bassett, Mayor of the Village of Rhinebeck and Chair of the Hudson 7

Drinkable Panelist - Hudson River Drinking Water Inter-Municipal Council

Outside of his work as Mayor and Chair of the Hudson 7, Gary was the Solar Service Manager at Suncommon Solar, from 2009 to 2022, and spent 35 years as Senior Manager at IBM, leading engineering departments in the development of supercomputers. Gary has an Associate Degree in Electronics from Williamsport Community College in PA, a Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering from SUNY Binghamton and a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.



John Cronin, Director of Blue CoLab at Pace University

Keynote Speaker - A 21st Century Clean Water Act

John Cronin is a lifelong environmental advocate, and a Time Magazine Hero for the Planet. He joined Clearwater's People's Pipewatch in 1973, where he collected evidence against polluters, including for the first Clean Water Act prosecution in New York. His 17-year stint as Hudson Riverkeeper became the model for Waterkeepers around the world. He has been a commercial fisherman, legislative aide, and is now director of Blue CoLab at Pace University, where he teaches environmental policy and advocacy.



Fran Dunwell, Retired Founder & Former Coordinator of the Hudson River Estuary Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Swimmable Panel Moderator

Fran Dunwell recently retired as the Hudson River Estuary Coordinator at the NYSDEC, a position she held from 1984-2022. In that role, she managed the implementation of the state's Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda and its \$6.5 million annual budget. Prior to working for NYSDEC, she was Executive Director of the Center for the Hudson River Valley, and Associate Director of Scenic Hudson. Dunwell has a Master's degree in environmental studies from Yale University and a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Kirkland College. Dunwell is also the author of two award winning books—The Hudson River Highlands (1991) and The Hudson: America's River (2008).



Gena Gallinger, MS, Director of Outreach and Education for New York State Department of Health's Center for Environmental Health

Fishable Panelist - PCB Fish Consumption Health Advisory

Gena Gallinger, MS, has 30 years of risk communication experience developing outreach materials and projects targeted to help New Yorkers reduce environmental exposures. Gena oversees the Hudson River Fish Outreach Project and New York State fish advisory outreach program dedicated to helping people make healthier choices about which sport-caught fish to eat.



Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Action Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Welcoming & Closing Remarks

Prior to Clearwater, Manna was the Recycling Coordinator/Educator for the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for 10+ years and a registered Critical Care Nurse for 22 years. She holds an AAS in Nursing, a BA in biology from SUNY New Paltz, and completed course work toward a Master's in Environmental Sciences at Bard College. A lifelong environmental professional and community activist, Manna avidly supports collaborative land use planning and problem solving. Working to promote sustainable agriculture and green building and landscaping practices, she teaches communities how to integrate environmental preservation, economic prosperity, and social equity using effective communication. Manna serves as an Ulster County Legislator for Rosendale and Marletown.



Rob Hayes, Director of Clean Water at Environmental Advocates NY

Drinkable Panelist - Emerging Contaminants

Rob joined Environmental Advocates NY in May of 2018 after graduating from the University of Chicago. Based in Albany, Rob lobbies for strong state-level legislation and regulations to protect clean water from source to tap. He leads numerous advocacy coalitions and provides support to residents in communities directly impacted by water pollution, including Hoosick Falls and Newburgh.



Aaron Mair, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board of Directors

Drinkable Panel Moderator

Aaron Mair of Schenectady, New York, is an epidemiological-spatial analyst with the New York State Department of Health and past President of the Sierra Club's Board of Directors. Mair's experience includes more than three decades of environmental activism and over 25 years as a Sierra Club volunteer leader, where he has worked diligently for environmental justice.



Althea Mullarkey, PCB Project Manager, Scenic Hudson

Fishable Panelist - PCBs Remediation & 5-Year Review Update

Prior to her current role, Althea was the Assistant Director of Advocacy & Special Project Analyst for 15 years at Scenic Hudson. She coordinates advocacy efforts, technical reviews, and serves as Scenic Hudson's representative in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Advisory Group, which oversees the PCB cleanup of the Hudson River. A Navy veteran, she studied at Monterey Peninsula College and is currently working towards a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability at Maryville University.



Jennifer Rawlison, Newburgh Clean Water Project

Drinkable Panelist - City of Newburgh PFAS Drinking Water Contamination Case Study

Raised in the City of Newburgh, Jennifer became an environmental and community advocate upon learning her community's drinking water and watershed had been contaminated with PFAS. A member of Newburgh Clean Water Project, and outreach consultant for Riverkeeper, Jennifer works to protect and remediate the City of Newburgh's drinking source water and watershed to ensure a safe and healthy future for her two daughters Marta and Nicole. Jennifer sits on the Stewart Air National Guard's Restoration Advisory Board and Leadership Team for the National PFAS Contamination Coalition.



Dan Shapley, Senior Director of Advocacy, Riverkeeper

Swimmable Panelist - Water Quality Monitoring & A Swimmable Hudson River

Dan has worked for Riverkeeper since 2011 in various roles, primarily focused on advocacy related to water quality improvements and drinking water source protection. He is a board member of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and a technical adviser to the Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7).



Stephen Stanne, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board of Directors and Retired NYSDEC

Fishable Panelist - Hudson River Fish Populations

Steve Stanne has been teaching about the Hudson since 1980 when he stepped aboard Clearwater as education director until 1999. Additionally, Steve also served two stints as acting executive director. From 1999 until retirement in 2017 he was employed by Cornell University in partnership with NYSDEC to direct education efforts of the agency's Hudson River Estuary Program.



David Toman, Executive Director, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

Fishable Panel Moderator

David comes to Clearwater with over 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, most recently as a Vice President of Operations, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Business Functions & Human Resources at the Mohonk Preserve. Toman's non-profit career began in the public accounting world; his love of nature guided him to the Delaware Nature Society where he held the position of Associate Director of Business & Finance for 12 years.



Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

Swimmable Panelist - Harmful Algae Blooms (HABS)

Prior to her role at the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Emily served for eight years as the Watershed Outreach Specialist for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, in collaboration with the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell University. Her work has supported community-based watershed groups, municipalities, and other partners throughout the region to improve water quality in the Hudson Valley. She holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Vassar College and an MS in Natural Resources from Cornell University.



Libby Zematis, Climate Resilience Program Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program

Climate Resilience Speaker

Libby's team supports communities to adapt to climate change and build resiliency through natural and equitable solutions. Libby enjoys thinking strategically, connecting people, and inspiring action. Her previous work includes management consulting and leading startups in the cleantech space. She earned her dual MBA in Strategic Management and MS in Climate Science and Policy from Bard College, and her BA in Geology from Vassar College.

A Brief History of the Clean Water Act

1899: Passage of the Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act, which made it a misdemeanor to discharge “refuse” in the waters of the United States without a permit. The resurrection of this statute in 1970 is thought to be the direct cause of the enactment and structure of the 1970 CWA legislation.

1899: Passage of the Refuse Act, which prohibited the discharge of refuse matter “into any navigable water of the United States, or into any tributary of any navigable water.”

Pre-1940s: Water pollution was seen as a matter of state law, and primarily dealt with through the **Common Law Remedy of Nuisance**, placing a high burden on citizens and states for pollution abatement.

1945: The post-war era brought a steep rise in industrial activity and population growth, resulting in significant pollution of waterways across the United States.

1948: Passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the first major U.S. law to address water pollution by giving regulatory authority to the states, provided states with financial assistance to combat water pollution, and authorized the federal government to address interstate water pollution.

1962: Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring” published in the New Yorker.

1963: Scenic Hudson Founded by six citizens in opposition to a proposed hydroelectric project on Storm King Mountain.

1965: Enactment of the Water Quality Act, which required all states to designate the intended uses for interstate waters within their jurisdiction and adopt water quality standards allowing each waterbody to meet the intended uses. States were also required to develop plans for enforcement and the federal government was granted oversight enforcement authority.

1965: The Scenic Hudson Decision was issued by the second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, granting citizens legal standing to support or oppose projects affecting their environment.

1966: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater founded by Pete and Toshi Seeger with plans to “build a boat to save the river” allowing people to experience the beauty of the Hudson River and be moved to preserve it.

1966: Riverkeeper founded as the Hudson River Fishermen’s Association, an environmental watchdog and enforcement organization founded by a group of concerned fishermen.

1969: Heavily polluted Cuyahoga River caught fire near Cleveland, OH and massive oil spill in Santa Barbara Channel, CA.

1969: National Environmental Policy Act passed was created to require all branches of government to give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that significantly affects the environment.

1970: Pete Seeger and the Clearwater crew sailed to Washington, DC, delivering thousands of petitions in support of the Clean Water Act to Congress.

1970: Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act authorized the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors for navigation, flood control, and for other purposes. Thought to be the direct cause of the enactment and structure of the 1970 CWA legislation.

1972: Passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which became commonly known as the Clean Water Act, established the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Provided grants to municipalities to build or upgrade sewage treatment plants, and established the goal of swimmable and fishable waters across the U.S. by 1985.

1977: Enactment of a Clean Water Act Amendment provided states with the authority to regulate nonpoint pollution sources, required enactment and implementation of plans to control these pollution sources.